

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - October 2010

| Location | Date/Time | Deaths & Injuries | Property & Crop Dmg | Event Type and Details |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ALABAMA, Southwest | | | | |
| MOBILE COUNTY --- 1.4 N COTTAGE HILL [30.67, -88.15], 1.8 NNE COTTAGE HILL [30.67, -88.13] | | | | |
| | 10/25/10 04:17 CST | 0 | | Tornado (EF1, L: 1.20 mi , W: 150 yd) |
| | 10/25/10 04:21 CST | 0 | | Source: NWS Storm Survey |

The tornado touched down at the corner of Bomar Place and Michael Boulevard (30.670618 deg. latitude and -88.153471 deg. longitude) where the damage assessment team found one home with roof damage, and 4 other homes with minor gutter and fascia damage. Several trees suffered damage by being snapped off at the top or losing several large limbs. Wind estimates at this location were approximately 65 mph based on the damage seen. The width of the path at this location was approximately 100 yards.

The second damage point the team found was at the corner of Michael Boulevard and Azalea Road (30.6705 deg latitude and -88.1494 deg Longitude). At this location the path widened to approximately 150 Yards and the circulation intensified. Meteorologists here found evidence of winds near 92 mph with sections of roofing missing from 2 restaurants (one a McDonald's) and 1 car-wash. Several windows were blown out of the McDonald's restaurant. A Chevron gas station next door had several pumps blown over with metal panels blown away from the metal canopy. Damage at this location was estimated to be in the EF-1 range of the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

The intensity of the damage weakened at the Cabana Apartments (between Azalea Road and Downtowner Boulevard at 30.6714 deg latitude and 88.1428 deg longitude). Here the team found minor damage to some pine trees with sections of large limbs stripped out. Wind estimates at this point were near 65 mph with a path width of 80 yards.

The tornado re-intensified at the Festival Center between Downtowner Boulevard and Montlimar Drive (30.6724 deg Latitude and -88.1387 deg longitude). Here the team found damage at 2 buildings in the Festival Center where sections of roofing were blown off. On the roof of Virginia College, 6 large air conditioning units (HVAC) were damaged and blown off of their mounts. One of the air conditioning units was blown off of the 2 story roof and landed in the parking lot in front of Virginia College. Wind estimates based on the damage observed indicated winds near 108 MPH at this location, or EF-1 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

The tornado lifted near Montlimar Drive between the Home Depot and Sonic Restaurant at 30.671745 deg latitude and -88.133328 deg longitude. At this location minor tree damage (large limbs stripped out of pine trees) was observed along with a section of a large metal sign being damaged at the Sonic. Winds were estimated to be near 70 mph at this location.

Interviews of individuals at the damage sites and a post-analysis of NWS doppler radar data from Mobile suggests the storm passed through the area between 417 AM CST and 421 AM CST. No injuries were reported to the National Weather Service from this short lived tornado. Total dollar damage estimates are not available.

During the overnight period from the evening of Sunday October 24th through the morning hours of Monday October 25th, a strong upper level disturbance moved from eastern Texas to Tennessee and Georgia. Ahead of this passing system, a moist and unstable airmass moved north across southern Alabama. From the mid evening hours on Sunday through daybreak on Monday, isolated severe storms developed in the unstable airmass near a weak surface trough of low pressure located just north of Interstate 10.

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McDonald's restaurant at Azalea Road and Michael Boulevard. Winds estimated at 92 MPH at this location. Windows blown out of store with convergent pattern indicated in the tree damage. Photo by National Weather Service - Mobile.